

CLAIMS

1) A method for obtaining isolated or cultured antigen presenting cells wherein the expression of one or more target gene(s) is down-regulated, wherein said method
5 comprises introducing in said cells siRNA(s) directed against said target gene(s).

2) The method of claim 1, wherein said antigen presenting cells are dendritic cells or precursors thereof.

3) The method of any of claims 1 or 2, wherein at
10 least one of said target gene(s) is selected among:

- a gene encoding the p50 subunit of NF- κ B;
- a gene encoding TNF-receptor associated factor 3;

- a gene encoding the c-Rel subunit of NF- κ B.

4) A siRNA directed against a target gene
15 selected among:

- a gene encoding the p50 subunit of NF- κ B;
- a gene encoding TNF-receptor associated factor 3.

20 - a gene encoding the c-Rel subunit of NF- κ B.

5) An expression vector containing a DNA template for a siRNA of claim 4.

6) The use of a siRNA of claim 4 or an expression vector of claim 5 for preparing an immunosuppressive
25 therapeutic composition.

7) An antigen-presenting cell obtainable by the method of any of claims 1 to 3.

8) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antigen-presenting cell of claim 7.

9) A method to produce T lymphocytes that fail to
30 produce IFN-gamma, wherein said method comprises inducing activation of naïve T cells by co-cultivating said T cells with antigen presenting cells of claim 7, containing siRNA directed against a gene encoding p50.

10) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 6
35 comprising activated T lymphocytes obtainable by the method of claim 7.